

TREE ADVISORY BOARD
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

MEMBERS: TONY BARDES; CHARLES DAY; KORY RIESTERER; GORDON ROBERTSON; JENNIFER ZWARICH

7/27/2016

MEETING MINUTES

7:30pm Village Hall

Present: Charles Day, Kory Riesterer, Gordon Robertson, Jennifer Zwarich, Tony Bardes.

Summary:

TAB convened at 7:40pm

1. Approval of 6/22/16 minutes tabled due to absence.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Discussion of Tree Inventory safety evals and pruning priorities:

JZ reported on VBOT responses to recommendations for pruning priorities. Of 5 trees of priority, VBOT approved funds first for Silver Maple on Garden St./Northern Ave. for pruning due to insurance claim. VBOT will put out to bid the remaining 4 trees as one 'work bundle'.

JZ reported she met with Mayor to discuss funding moving forward. CSTAB will send broader ballpark estimates of tree work to VBOT in future to help with budgeting. Discussion of alternate funding ideas for tree work followed:

- a) Central Hudson will remove trees under wires but only come in to village every 4 years. JZ can discuss with Central Hudson to add specific trees to their list?
- b) Hire county to come in with their truck for day rate?
- c) Have village highway crew take care of ground clean-up after tree company does the pruning/take down heavy work?
- d) Would companies lower tree removal costs if allowed to dump wood/brush at site on village property?
- e) Unlikely prospect to get grants/donations for such routine maintenance work.
- f) Meet with E. Trimble before he retires from HWY dept to get an inventory on HWY equipment owned by village that might be useful for tree work etc.

3. G. Robertson brought up concerns that arborists hired for maintenance work be vetted for proper insurance and J. Zwarich noted all contract work with village requires keeping insurance on file. She noted again that VBOT has still not approved TAB's Contractor Application form and that for past 2 months she has followed up with VBOT and is still awaiting their approval. Without approval TAB cannot post and move forward with compiling a list of approved contractors/arborists for maintenance work. She is concerned the process for hiring contractors remain competitive and though bundling tree work in larger amounts often reduces cost, this ultimately makes no difference if not enough funds in budget to begin with. T. Bardes is concerned that contractors/arborists not feel used for submitting bids one too many times. J. Zwarich agreed but said she was advised that the VBOT did not want to do rotating bids (as per a list) in order to keep bidding competitive and ensure lowest cost. G. Robertson said the market will dictate in the end and bidding out too often eventually raises costs.

TREE ADVISORY BOARD

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

MEMBERS: TONY BARDES; CHARLES DAY; KORY RIESTERER; GORDON ROBERTSON; JENNIFER ZWARICH

4. Main Street sidewalk project updates: discussion of improvement zone Phase I planning.

J. Zwarich reported there are 5 large zones and 4 smaller ones. Stone dust has been laid out over paper in improvement zones to control dirt runoff. Goal is for TAB to make an improvement plan for initial area in front of Cathryn's Tuscan Grille and present to business owners and village officials for input/approval. Looking to include 3 small trees here, possibly a shrub in place of 1 tree. Salt tolerant plants needed. C. Day will research maritime plants as potential fit. J. Zwarich will send TAB a schematic for input/refining via e-mail. Once necessary approval and input happens, fundraising can begin. Ideas discussed:

- a) bluestone vs. pavers vs. grass to fill large areas?
- b) TAB will meet with Ed Trimble to tap his preferences regarding pavers maintenance.
- c) Highlands Garden Club may be willing to donate funds or collaborate? G. Robertson will reach out.
- d) include one bench per zone? Add historic element or incorporate the arts – mosaic slabs? Goal being: collaboration with community without politics becoming involved!
- e) 'sponsor a tree pit' contest to make it fun and competitive?

5. J. Zwarich proposed making a list of potential volunteer individuals and organizations. G. Robertson recommended instead of/in place of a general TAB meeting having a once a month 'workshop' meeting just on a specific topic e.g. the improvement zones/tree pits. Invite public to attend and weigh in with ideas.

G. Robertson has volunteered to make one sample tree pit border and will get dimensions from J. Zwarich for initial improvement zone. TAB discussed need for a lip on bottom portion of pit borders to contain mulch runoff.

6. Misc. updates (such as tree nursery, tree walking tour brochure and tree labels, tree tagging, website, fundraising, sample tree pit borders, and Haldane trees) was tabled to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Correspondence: circulated in advance via e-mail.

8. Public comment: Barney Malloy recommended removing tree maintenance from purview of TAB and keeping just the management plan piece. Malloy also suggested TAB should find a 3rd party (such as insurance lawyer) to advise and help educate VBOT as to how to deal with tree maintenance without incurring more liability. Recommended also defining tree maintenance (as identified in tree survey) as a recurring capital cost to village – as a backlog of work that is village responsibility to complete. Malloy also noted it might be good to do an exit interview with Eddy before he retires from HWY department to record knowledge that will be lost and to get an inventory of village owned HWY equipment and skills that might be useful for tree work etc. TAB thanked Malloy for his input. Malloy mentioned the annual Business Breakfast with the Chamber is Oct 2nd this year – might be good idea for TAB to make a small proactive/positive presentation of Main St. improvement plan that day to rally support moving forward. TAB thought this was a great idea. Public comment closed.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 8:55 pm.